

TailWheel Endorsement Course

Prior to your first Tailwheel Instructional Flight, we need to cover some basic groundschool – if we just jump in the airplane and go flying, there simply isn't enough time to discuss all that's necessary while we're flying. The groundschool consists of some reading, and some discussion. Please prep by doing the reading, and covering the discussion topics below with your instructor.

Tailwheel Pre-Reading

- Airplane Flying Handbook Chapter 13 “Transition to Tailwheel” (http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aircraft/airplane_handbook/media/faa-h-8083-3a-6of7.pdf)
- Blue Sky Aero Tailwheel Syllabus (available at www.blueskyaero.com)
- Citabria POH (available at www.blueskyaero.com)

Tailwheel Discussion Topics

- ◆ How to *really* fly a coordinated turn (looking for “nose sweep”, what the “ball” actually does and how it works, what it tells you, adverse yaw, etc.)
- ◆ Rudder coordination maneuvers, what they are, why they're useful, how to fly them; Dutch Rolls, figures with the nose, etc.
- ◆ CG location (with respect to the mains), hence why the airplane behaves the way it does, why it weathervanes, etc. etc.
- ◆ Rudder authority (why the rudder has so much authority on TW airplanes (Cause it needs that much authority to keep the plane on the runway!))
- ◆ Taxi/TW detent/speeds/groundloop (How to taxi a TW airplane, how the TW itself works regarding the detent, what speeds to taxi and how fast is too fast, what a groundloop is and what will cause it, what will bite you in the butt.)
- ◆ 3-pt & wheelies (What these terms mean, how to execute each type of TO, LND, or taxi)
- ◆ X-wind (Long discussion here about technique and physics, and weathervaning)
- ◆ Porpoising (What causes porpoising, the physics of it, momentum of the elevator and why it wants to keep going down after a bounce, why it feels like it rips the stick out of your hand, what to do when it rips the stick out of your hand, etc.)
- ◆ Converting a wheely into a 3-pt (Technique of doing this, why and when it's needed.)
- ◆ The sequence of learning during the TW course
- ◆ How do we know when we're done, criteria for completion, "displaying competency", mastery of the craft.
- ◆ Airplane checkout, for pilots that want to solo the airplane (what the checkout consists of)